

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named

Inventor

Thomas W. BAKKER

Appln. No.

Filed

July 18, 2001

Title

PIPE HANDLING APPARATUS AND

METHOD

Docket No.

W422.312-7

Group Art Unit: Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SENT VIA EXPRESS MAIL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Express Mail No.: EL800727285US

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please add the following abstract on a separate sheet. (marked up version attached in Appendix)